## INDIVIDUAL FOREIGN TRAVEL ON INCREASE IN FINLAND

Mia Maki 03/19/2001

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Finnish foreign leisure travel is going through a break-through period. Traditional package tour/charter-travel is being replaced by individual travel arrangements on airlines' scheduled flights. According to Finland Travel Bureau, one of the largest travel agencies/tour operators in Finland, educated, upper middle class and middle-aged Finns lead the way for choosing flexible individual travel arrangements over pre-set charter-travel. Finland Travel Bureau's own tailor-made tours division, a la carte, increased its sales volume by 10-15 percent in seven months.

In 1999, Finns made about 6,1 million trips abroad out of which 2,1 million were leisure trips. European destinations account for about 60 percent of the leisure trip departures. However, most of these departures are linked to charter-travel. Therefore, the increase in individual travel arrangements is expected to favor travel to the United States. Already a non-traditional charter-travel destination for Finnish travelers, the United States offers a variety of different opportunities for individual travel.

In 1999, over 91,000 Finns traveled to the United States, over 7 percent increase from 1998. New York, Florida and California continue to be the best prospects for the U.S. travel industry. First time travelers, families with children and senior citizens favor Florida, whereas younger people and experienced travelers favor the West Coast.

For further information on Finnish travel agencies/tour operators selling the U.S. as a travel destination, please contact:

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Helsinki, Finland
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IMI Customer Satisfaction Survey

U.S. Department of Commerce
International Trade Administration
The Commercial Service

The U.S. Department of Commerce would appreciate input from U.S. businesses that have used this IMI report in conducting export market research. Please review the privacy statement / disclaimers at the bottom of this Web site.
Please take a few moments to complete the attached survey and fax it to 202/482-0973, mail it to QAS, Rm. 2002, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230, or Email: Internet[Opfer@doc.gov].

\* \* \* About Our Service \* \* \*

1. Country covered by report: \_\_\_\_\_\_

Industry/title: \_\_\_\_\_

Commerce domestic office that assisted you (if applicable):

2. How did you find out about the IMI service?

Ms. Mia Maki

\_\_Direct mail

Recommended by another firmRecommended by Commerce staffTrade/state/private newsletterDepartment of Commerce newsletterOther (specify):
3. Please indicate the extent to which your objectives were satisfied: 1-Very satisfied 2-Satisfied 3-Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied 4-Dissatisfied 5-Very dissatisfied 6-Not applicable
Overall objectivesAccuracy of informationCompleteness of informationClarity of informationRelevance of informationFollow-up by Commerce representative
4. In your opinion, did using the IMI service facilitate any of the following? Decided to enter or increase presence in market Developed an export marketing plan Added to knowledge of country/industry Corroborated market data from other sources Decided to bypass or reduce presence in market Other (specify):
5. How likely would you be to use the IMI service again? Definitely would Probably would Unsure Probably would not Definitely would not  5. Comments:
* * * About Your Firm * * *  1. Number of employees:1-99100-249250-4991,000+
2. Location (abbreviation of your state only):
B. Business activity (check one): Manufacturing Service Agent, broker, manufacturer's representative Export management or trading company

Other (specify):
4. Value of export shipments over the past 12 months:
Less than \$10K
\$11K-\$100K
\$101K-\$500K
\$501K-\$999K
\$\$1M-\$5M
More than \$5M
May we call you about your experience with the IMI service?
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